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978-0-521-88225-5 - The Politics of Apollonius Rhodius' *Argonautica*

Anatole Mori

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THE POLITICS OF  
APOLLONIUS RHODIUS'  
*ARGONAUTICA*

Apollonius Rhodius' epic poem, the *Argonautica*, is one of the most important and influential literary productions of the Hellenistic period. This book shows how the retelling of a heroic adventure set in the generation before the Trojan War engages the political, religious, and ethical dynamics of its day by alluding to the real-world context of the early Ptolemaic dynasty as well as to poetic and other models. Through a hegemonic typology that ranges from the just and theocratic to the duplicitous and lawless, Apollonius characterizes the political heirs of Alexander the Great as pious, civilized rulers. This interpretation goes beyond previous studies by examining the political resonance of religious activity in the poem, and by relating these formulations (especially where they concern Apollonius' departures from his literary predecessors) to the ideological construction of Hellenic identity in third-century Egypt.

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Bronze cult statuette of Alexander Aigiochos ("Aegis-Bearing") with *chlamys*-shaped aegis. Roman copy from Alexandria (London, British Museum). Original dated to late fourth century BC. Photo courtesy of the British Museum, © The Trustees of the British Museum

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## *Abbreviations*

Spelling and abbreviation generally adhere to the onomastic conventions of the *Oxford Classical Dictionary*. Modern periodicals and multivolume reference works are abbreviated as in *L'Année Philologique*. Apollonius is cited from Vian 2002; Virgil from Mynors 1969. All translations are my own except where indicated otherwise.

- AB C. Austin and G. Bastianini (eds.) *Posidippi Pellaei quae supersunt omnia*. Milan, 2002.
- ABV J. D. Beazley. *Attic Black-Figure Vase-Painters*. Oxford, 1956.
- CAH F. W. Walbank, A. E. Astin, and M. W. Frederiksen (eds.) *The Cambridge Ancient History*. Vol. 7.1: The Hellenistic World. 2nd edn. Cambridge, 1984.
- CG *Catalogue générale des antiquités égyptiennes du Musée du Caire* (with monument number).
- Etym. M.* T. Gaisford (ed.) *Etymologicon magnum*. Amsterdam, 1962.
- FGrH F. Jacoby (ed.) *Die Fragmente der griechischen Historiker*. Berlin and Leiden, 1923–40; 1940–59; 1994–.
- GP A. S. F. Gow and D. L. Page (eds.) *The Greek Anthology: Hellenistic Epigrams*. 2 vols. Cambridge, 1965.
- IG II *Inscriptiones Graecae* II/III, Part I: *Inscriptiones Atticae Euclidis anno posteriores*, fasc. i: *decreta annorum 403/2–230/29*. 2nd edn. Ed. J. Kirchner. Berlin, 1913.
- IG VII *Inscriptiones Graecae* VII: *Inscriptiones Megaridis et Boeotiae*. Ed. W. Dittenberger. Berlin, 1982.
- IG XI *Inscriptiones Graecae* XI, fasc. iv: *Inscriptiones Deli*. Ed. P. Roussel. Berlin, 1914.
- IG XII *Inscriptiones Graecae* XII: *Inscriptiones maris Aegeai praeter Delum*, fasc. iii, supplement. Ed. F. H. de Gatringen. Berlin, 1904; fasc. vii. Ed. F. H. de Gatringen. Berlin, 1908.

## List of abbreviations

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- LIMC* H. C. Ackermann and J.-R. Gisler (eds.) *Lexicon iconographicum mythologiae classicae*. Zurich, 1981–.
- LSJ* H. G. Liddell and R. Scott (eds.) *A Greek–English Lexicon*. Oxford, 1968.
- OGIS* W. Dittenberger (ed.) *Orientis Graeci inscriptiones selectae*. 2 vols. Leipzig, 1903–5.
- P. Cair. Zen.* C. C. Edgar (ed.) *Zenon Papyri: Catalogue général des antiquités égyptiennes du Musée du Caire*. 5 vols. Cairo, 1925–40.
- P. Eleph.* O. Rubensohn (ed.) *Aegyptische Urkunden aus den Königlichen Museen zu Berlin: Griechische Urkunden, Sonderheft: Elephantine-Papyri*. Berlin, 1907.
- P. Giss.* O. Eger, E. Kornemann, and P. M. Meyer (eds.) *Griechische Papyri im Museum des oberhessischen Geschichtsvereins zu Giessen*. Leipzig and Berlin, 1910–12.
- P. Lille* *Papyrus grecs*. Institute papyrologique de l'Université de Lille, 1907–12.
- P. Mil.* *Papiri dell'Università degli Studi di Milano*. Milan, 1937–.
- Vogl.*
- P. Oxy.* *The Oxyrhynchus Papyri*. London, 1898–.
- Pfeiffer i* R. Pfeiffer (ed.) *Callimachus: Fragmenta*. Vol. 1. Oxford, 1949.
- Pfeiffer ii* R. Pfeiffer (ed.) *Callimachus: Hymni et Epigrammata*. Vol. 2. Oxford, 1953.
- SEG* *Supplementum epigraphicum Graecum*. Amsterdam, 1923–.
- SH* H. Lloyd-Jones and P. Parsons (eds.) *Supplementum Hellenisticum*. Berlin, 1983.
- Suda* A. Adler (ed.) *Suidae Lexicon*. 5 vols. Stuttgart, 1967–71.
- Syll.* W. Dittenberger (ed.) *Sylloge inscriptionum Graecarum*. 3rd edn. 4 vols. Leipzig, 1915–24. (Reprint 1960.)